Kremlin Carrying Out Some Helsinki Pledges

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BRUSSELS, Jan. 11—In the past few days Warsaw Pact countries have been moving in public and in private to carry out some of the Helsinki accords on European security and cooperation signed last August, NATO officials here have noted.

This action has included a relaxation of travel restrictions on Western newsmen in the Soviet Union, advance notification of Soviet troop maneuvers and an apparent campaign to promote pan-European East-West conferences in economic and other civilian projects.

NATO officials have generally welcomed this trend and attribute the delay between the signing of the documents in August and the recent public compliance to the rigidity of the Communist system.

But they also point to other portions of the 35-nation Helsinki pact which the Soviet Union shows no signs of pursuing, and they note surprising Soviet hostility to last week's proposals to strengthen the European Common Market's political unity and to the need for progress in East-West troop reduction talks in Vienna.

A few weeks ago, after showing little enthusiasm for carrying out the Helsinki agreements, Soviet authorities announced that they would considerably relax visa and travel requirements for Western journalists. In the future these correspondents will no longer have to seek specific approval for each trip but will be required merely to give notification.

A major breakthrough also occurred last week when the Soviet Union for the first time informed the parties to the Helsinki accord that it would be holding major military maneuvers near the Turkish and Iranian frontiers late this month. The Moscow announcement did not, however, extend an invitation to observers, as did the Western allies when they announced maneuvers earlier.

In addition, the NATO allies have been informed that in recent meetings with the West, Warsaw Pact countries have placed a heavy emphasis on the need to follow up the declarations in the Helsinki pact calling for European-wide East-West cooperation in economics, science, technology and the environment.

Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin and a high Romanian official, for example, were said to have made such a case in recent meetings with Turkish officials.

One such cooperative meeting is the five-nation Balkan conference scheduled to be held in Athens later this month. It was proposed by Greece last year and the Soviet response is considered unusual because Moscow has apparently lifted its earlier opposition to participation by Bulgaria.

But officials here have remarked that while the Warsaw Pact has recently shown interest in holding more such conferences, it also seems interested in excluding U. S. participation. Thus it has chosen geographic topics such as transportation, environmental problems and regional energy programs. Officials here also point out that there is no apparent change in the Soviet reluctance to fulfill the Helsinki agreements on human rights and relaxation of political tension.

Officials here say they were surprised at the criticism leveled by the Soviet press against the proposals for European Common Market political unity made last week by Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans.

They say they had expected either silence or mild criticism and were astonished by the force of the Soviet opposition to any move toward European political unity, especially if it includes a common defense or security policy.